United Nations A/53/544/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 125

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 125 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/53/544.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 55th, 56th and 62nd meetings, on 10, 11 and 27 May 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/53/SR.55, 56 and 62).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/53/810 and A/53/820) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/943).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.61

4. At the 62nd meeting, on 27 May, the representative of Canada and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara" (A/C.5/53/L.61), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.61 without a vote (see para. 6).

99-16197 (E) 020699

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1238 (1999) of 14 May 1999,

Recalling its resolution 45/266 of 17 May 1991 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 53/18 of 2 November 1998,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara as at 30 April 1999, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 59.3 million United States dollars, representing 17 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 31 March 1999, notes that some 6 per cent of the membership has paid its assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

[1] A/53/810 and A/53/820.

[2] A/53/943.

2. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full and on time;

5. *Takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara the amount of 52,124,911 dollars gross (48,173,311 dollars net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, inclusive of the amount of 2,593,381 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 508,530 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi;

9. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 10,714,566 dollars gross (9,902,291 dollars net) for the period from 1 July to 14 September 1999 among Member States, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

10. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 812,275 dollars approved for the period from 1 July to 14 September 1999;

11. *Decides*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 41,410,345 dollars gross (38,271,020 dollars net) for the period from 15 September 1999 to 30 June 2000 among Member States at a monthly rate of 4,343,743 dollars gross (4,014,443 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution and the scale of assessments for the years 1999 and 2000, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A, and subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 14 September 1999;

12. *Decides also* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 3,139,325 dollars approved for the period from 15 September 1999 to 30 June 2000;

13. *Decides further* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 6,523,200 dollars gross (5,357,200 dollars net) in respect of the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

14. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 6,523,200 dollars gross (5,357,200 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

15. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedures and practices established by the General Assembly;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the agenda item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".